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KE0001-US (540235-0000002)

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| In re the Application of: OKUBO, ET AL. Serial No.: 09/993,675 Filed: November 27, 2001 For: PROBE FOR THE PROBE CARD | Art Unit: 2829 Examiner: NGUYEN, TRUNG Q. |
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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed on December 8, 2005, Applicants hereby provisionally elect, with traverse, to prosecute the claims of Group I (claims 18-27) in the present application.

However, applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement since the subject matter of all of claims 18-33 are sufficiently related that a thorough and complete search for the subject matter of the elected claims would necessarily encompass a thorough and complete search for the subject matter of the non-elected claims. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested

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that the restriction requirement be withdrawn and that the present application be examined according to MPEP § 803 so as to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to the Applicants and improper duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

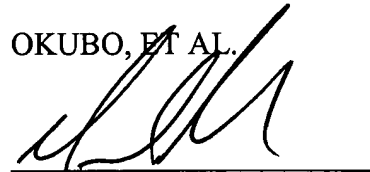
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Respectfully submitted,

OKUBO, ET AL.

Date: January 9, 2006

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